



Civil Air Patrol

U.S. Air Force Auxiliary

Who we are and what we do

Civil Air Patrol (CAP) is a unique public service organization chartered by Congress that functions both as a nonprofit and the U.S. Air Force auxiliary. Under its charter and public laws, CAP performs a variety of emergency and operational missions on demand for the federal government. Additionally, CAP offers youth programs and provides support to schools and students in thousands of communities.

Every state, Puerto Rico and Washington, D.C., has a Civil Air Patrol wing with multiple local units, known as squadrons. These squadrons respond to state and local emergencies throughout the year and are an integral part of their communities. About 60,000 volunteers lend their expertise and time to help save lives, shape futures and strengthen education using aerospace and STEM curricula developed by CAP.

Why CAP

In 1942, Civil Air Patrol began tracking enemy submarines along the coastline from Maine to Texas to support the war effort at home. For 18 months civilians flew their own aircraft reporting German submarine locations to the military, escorting convoys and helping locate survivors of enemy attacks on shipping. CAP's efforts helped push the submarine threat well away from coastal shipping. At the same time CAP started to fly search and rescue missions and train pilots, including women and African Americans. After the war, CAP continued its national and state efforts in a non-combatant capacity.



Cadet Wings

Helping the nation and states

Civil Air Patrol volunteers conduct a wide range of aviation missions with a fleet of 560 aircraft (the world's largest single-engine fleet), more than 1,000 vehicles, 2,000 small Unmanned Aerial Systems and a nationwide network of more than 10,000 radios. CAP has also developed unique lifesaving software technology to

make search and rescue operations faster and more efficient for both air and ground searches. Last year, CAP flew about 70,000 hours and was credited with saving 130 lives.

During 2020 Civil Air Patrol mobilized to provide 40 states and Puerto Rico with COVID-19 support that ranged from flying test kits, ventilators, vaccines and critical personnel protection equipment to remote hospitals to serving millions of packaged meals to those in need. While maintaining strict safety protocols, CAP's



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Air Force Intercept Training



mobilization in support of COVID-19 missions was the largest effort since World War II, totaling more than 36,000 volunteer days of service. CAP's coronavirus efforts are continuing into 2021.

Civil Air Patrol flight operations, particularly those assigned by First Air Force and FEMA, include search and rescue, air intercept training, disaster photo support, low-level route surveys, Navy vessel escorts, national communications and others. At the state level, CAP tracks wildlife, patrols rivers and bays for people in distress, locates threatening ice conditions in winter, and more. These missions typically cost about \$165 an hour, while military aircraft can cost thousands of dollars per hour.

Shaping young lives

Civil Air Patrol's youth program impacts more than 24,000 cadets nationwide weekly in thousands of communities.

CAP provides young members an opportunity to become good citizens, confident leaders, physically fit and to explore aerospace and other careers through weekly meetings, summer

encampments, special activities such as worldwide youth exchanges, flight training and internships across the nation. In more rural communities and states CAP youth programs are particularly valued activities due to the absence of other quality opportunities.

Strengthening education

Civil Air Patrol's aerospace education programs support community schools, teachers, students and CAP youth through a variety of programs, including curriculum for K-12 classes and study guides, books and special project kits that address aviation, space, cyber and STEM (science, technology, engineering and math). Special programs range from recognizing outstanding educators to providing teachers an opportunity to see how scientific principles work while flying in a CAP aircraft.

What we need

Civil Air Patrol is an organization of national interest to Congress that operates in most districts in every state as well as

Puerto Rico and Washington, D.C. It is important for members of Congress to be knowledgeable about its operations and programs and connection with the Air Force as a Total Force partner. Our volunteer professionals and exceptional youth reflect a cross-section of your communities and state.

CAP annually reports to Congress as required by law. It is our opportunity to inform and educate through in-person meetings and delivery of our Report to Congress, generally in late February. This year, due to the coronavirus, we will conduct virtual meetings with congressional offices from Feb. 14-March 8.

CAP is funded in the annual Defense Appropriations bill, and every dollar spent on CAP saves the government at least \$4. Last year, CAP programs saved the nation over \$190 million.

Because CAP is not involved in hearings, it depends on members of Congress who want to help inform the defense committees of their support for CAP's budget. Typically, this is done through either an appropriations request or a letter of support to the appropriations committees.

For more information, please contact John Swain at jswain@capnhq.gov.